

**“If we maintain our faith,
love of freedom, and supe-
rior air power, the future
looks good.”**

– Gen. Curtis Le May

News in Brief

Senior selection

Congratulations to Master Sgt. Daniel Kjolhede, Maintenance Division test, measurement and diagnostic equipment branch chief, who has been selected for promotion to senior master sergeant.

Chief induction

Today is the last day to sign up for the 47th Flying Training Wing Chief Master Sergeant Induction Ceremony being held at 6 p.m. March 28 at Club XL. Commanders and distinguished visitors may R.S.V.P. by calling protocol at 298-4710. All other Laughlin members wanting to attend should contact their first sergeant or orderly room to sign up.

Cost of the meal is \$13 for club members and \$16 for non-members.

For more information, call 298-5336.

Mission status

(As of March 14)

Days ahead or behind with
mission capable rate

T-37	-1.76	90.0%
T-1	-0.80	82.1%
T-38	-1.15	77.9%
T-6	-1.77	82.5%

Reductions cost Laughlin 26 positions in fiscal 2004

By Staff Sgt. A.J. Bosker

Air Force Print News

Air Education and Training Command will lose more than 1,400 positions in fiscal 2004 as part of the Air Force's manpower reduction initiative, the AETC commander announced March 5. The 47th Flying Training Wing will lose 16 civilian and 10 military positions under this initiative.

The program seeks to reconcile current manning documents with authorized levels as outlined by the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Gen. Don Cook, AETC commander, said AETC would lose about 830 military and 590 civilian positions next year, with increased reductions in later years.

The fiscal 2004 reductions take effect Oct. 1. The number of mili-

See 'Reduction,' page 4



Photo by Maj. Robert Hicks

Reflections...

This photo was taken by Maj. Robert Hicks, 47th Logistics Readiness Division director of logistics, in Washington D.C. in winter 2001. It earned first place in Air Education and Training Command annual photography contest for best military life photo. Another Laughlin resident, Megan Morgan, won second place in the creative effects category.

Pharmacy changes prescription policy

By Airman 1st Class

Timothy Stein

Editor

Due to critical manning levels, the Laughlin pharmacy has implemented several measures to ensure optimal care and safety of Laughlin patients.

Under the new measures the pharmacy will no longer provide over-the-counter medications, transfer-prescription service from other Department of Defense facilities or new requests for nonformulary medications.

“The pharmacy is the highest

risk spot we have in this type of hospital,” said Col. (Dr.) Charles Hardin, 47th Medical Group commander. “The drugs they deal with are very potent. If they give a person the wrong drug it can be very dangerous. That is why manning in the pharmacy is so crucial. With our low manning levels, we will no longer be able to continue some of the extra pharmacy services we had been providing.”

Currently, Laughlin has one pharmacist and one technician who fill at least 175 new prescriptions a day. Laughlin is allotted one phar-

macist and three technicians. That, added with the fact that Laughlin is filling 20 percent more prescriptions than last year brought about these changes, said Colonel Hardin.

“These changes are for the patient's safety,” said Colonel Hardin. “It is not a question of benefits. It is a safety issue for us. What our pharmacist is doing is safe, quality work.”

Under the new policy, the pharmacy will not dispense over-the-counter medications such as Tylenol

See 'Pharmacy,' page 8



Commanders' Corner

Col. Dan Woodward
47th Flying Training Wing commander

Training pilots, fighting America's wars

When I took command of the 47th Flying Training Wing back in August, we were less than four months away from an Operational Readiness Inspection. We had a goal, we were focused on reaching it, and we did.

With the ORI now behind us, we need to refocus our energies on new goals and challenges. Many of you are already working on post-ORI improvements, and if so, I applaud your initiative and encourage you to continue to set new goals for your unit and strive to reach and exceed them.

As you build improvements in your organizations, we have also begun working toward strategic planning goals for the Wing as a whole. Last week the Wing Plans office arranged a strategic planning off-site at Fort Clark Springs in Bracketville. The session was attended by more than 30 of Laughlin's group and squadron commanders, division and wing staff agency chiefs, and first sergeants. The basic idea was to bring leaders from around the Wing together to discuss opportunities for the future and decide where our efforts should be focused.

Following some team building, the group tackled tough issues as part of a strategic planning session. Topics were introduced and ideas battled around, with the target being concrete initiatives and action items designed to make Team XL even better.

First on the agenda, was a critical look at our wing mission statement: "Train the World's Best Pilots." While all agreed that this phrase was key, we also felt that our wing does more. Emphasis focused on our role in the larger Air Force mission and the need to develop our

ability to play a part in supporting our continuing war on terrorism. Ultimately, the team settled on the following: "Train the World's Best Pilots...and Deploy Expeditionary Forces Worldwide to Fight and Win America's Wars...Period!" This statement captures our core mission but includes the idea that we must have an expeditionary mindset at all times because it is the way we fight as an Air Force. More about this in just a minute.

We then tackled broad topics such as developing Airmen, where we hit on subjects like mentoring, 5-level manning issues, and training.

We dissected our pilot training mission, looked at several of the processes we currently have in place and developed a few ideas for how to make them better.

One of the items we took a hard look at – and the one that generated the most discussion – was how to build an expeditionary mindset in each and every one of the airmen stationed here at Laughlin. Currently, Laughlin has about 20 members deployed in support of operations in the Arabian Gulf, with another 600 who could potentially be tasked to deploy.

It wasn't so long ago – just a couple of years, in fact – that Air Force members assigned to an Air Education and Training Command base didn't worry too much about the possibility of deploying. After all, our mission stayed true whether we were at peace or at war.

The attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, caused us to take a different look at how we fight wars. As a result, AETC increased its war fighting footprint, and this year more than

20,000 troops assigned to the "training" command will fill mobility positions, and a good portion of that number will actually deploy to the combat zone. Compared to only 7,000 AETC troops assigned to air expeditionary forces two years ago, it's obvious that our command is fully committed to playing a key role in today's expeditionary mission.

Many of you have been assigned to other commands and understand the importance of being ready to go when called. That's exactly what I mean when I say we need to develop an AEF mindset. We must be physically, mentally, and spiritually ready. If you're on mobility, all required training must be accomplished, bags packed, legal and medical records in order... and you must be ready to go...at a moment's notice. Our expeditionary Air Force expects it and the global war on terrorism demands it. And if you are not on mobility... support those who are and be prepared, because your expeditionary Air Force will undoubtedly call you soon.

For leaders at all levels, whether squadron commander, flight chief, or first-level supervisor, I encourage you to continue to take time to listen to your people. One of the great hidden values in our off-site was the opportunity to listen to others shape and express their ideas. We truly have the best and brightest of America here at Laughlin and with everyone's help, Team XL will continue to excel for years to come. And please always remember: We Train the World's Best Pilots...and Deploy Expeditionary Forces Worldwide to Fight and Win America's Wars...Period!



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The Border Eagle is published every Friday, except the first week in January and the last week in December, by the Del Rio News Herald, a private firm in no way connected with the U. S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 47th Flying Training Wing, Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas.

This civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 47th Flying Training Wing. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

Deadlines, Advertising

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Submissions can be e-mailed to: **timothy.stein@laughlin.af.mil** or **yvonne.conde@laughlin.af.mil**.

Actionline 298-5351

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.



Col. Dan Woodward
47th Flying Training
Wing commander

AAFES	298-3176
Accounting and Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
EEO	298-5879
FWA hotline	298-4170
Hospital	298-6311
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Legal	298-5172
MEO	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

**“Excellence –
not our goal,
but our
standard.”
– 47th FTW motto**

Civilians provide crucial role in national defense

By Jimmy Helton

14th Logistics Readiness Squadron
COLUMBUS AIR FORCE

BASE, Miss. – When we talk about building leaders, we must address the total force. Today’s military is a rich blend of active-duty, Guard, Reserve, civilian civil service and contractors supporting military operations.

The civilian workforce is a crucial link in national defense. The Department of Defense employs more than 800,000 civilians around the world. One quarter of the total DOD workforce is made up of civilians developing and maintaining sophisticated systems, managing complex programs and handling the feeding, housing and paying of members.

Many civilians are subjected to the same risks as military members, and several thousand civilians deployed during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Any future war will take all of the military commitment, meaning

the civilian workforce will be called into harm’s way.

The civilian workforce is extremely talented. Nearly 80,000 hold advanced degrees and more than 250,000 have at least a bachelor’s degree. Here, more than 47 percent of the workforce consists of civil service or civilian contractors. To get ready for the 21st century, we must plan now to produce future civilian leaders.

The Air Force will demand civilian leaders be both technically and managerially adept, well educated and possess broad and diverse experience. Development and training at career milestones is essential to achieving this objective. We must instill the same institutional commitment and responsibility in civilian employees as in military people.

The responsibility for identifying candidates for appropriate development rests with commanders and managers. The force is very capable; however, there is concern that 45

percent of the civilian workforce is eligible for retirement in five years.

The civilian force is rich in terms of experience – one of its greatest strengths. And it is important to manage the force to sustain this experience level. A unified military-civilian team is essential to the mission.

A mass exodus of the civilian sector would leave a giant “skills gap” in the workforce. We must start mentoring, educating and training young workforce members to perform as well as their predecessors. We must also consider training military people who may one day serve as civilian employees.

Successful companies know their workforce is their most important asset, and so they use education and professional development programs to attract and retain quality people. Invest your leadership abilities, time, resources and dollars in the personal and professional development of your civilian workforce for tomorrow’s Air Force.

Invest in yourself: educate yourself

By Maj. Michael Costello

56th Maintenance Operations
Squadron

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. – If you’re like me, you’re always looking for a good investment.

It wasn’t that long ago when you could go into almost any trendy café and, without much effort, leave with at least a handful of red-hot stock or mutual fund picks. It’s no secret those days are gone and the young professionals that frequented them are in a different line of work.

I’ve got a hot investment tip for you. The returns are strong for the lifetime of the investment regardless of market conditions. I recommend you “get in” early, and never “sell.” Invest in yourself.

Here’s another personal investment tip: education. “I’m going to lose 10 pounds” and “I’m going to get back in the gym” are perennial New Year resolution favorites. But how about “I’m going to learn an-

other language” or “I’m going to get another degree?”

The Air Force encourages and values continually advancing our education.

Many see the light early. The Department of Education projects more than eight million people under 22 years old will be enrolled in college nationwide in 2010. This number drops to four million for those over 30 years old.

Are these four million just now deciding to invest in themselves, or are they continuing to build on the degrees they earned earlier in life? Either way, they’ll get good returns.

Some would say, “I got my degree, I’m done,” but going back to school helps prevent us from being lulled into blissful obsolescence. I’ll be the first to admit there’s more to it than just education, but it starts there, gets better with experience followed by periodic returns to the classroom.

I think these returns to the classroom help remove the “crust” off of the “crusty ol’ (insert your favorite rank here).”

The times will continue to change, and those who periodically subject themselves to being a student will keep, and ultimately set, the pace. Yes, one plus one will always be two, but the advent of digital electronics has brought some of us to also think of it as 10 in binary.

It’s easy to get lost in the sea of upcoming deadlines that seem to focus our daily activities. It’s truly tough to fit it all in. I’ve often concluded, “There’s not enough time in the day.” However, days become weeks, weeks become months, and months become careers.

Successful military careers are commonly achieved by the time we’re 40-something, if not sooner. Then what? The answer is easy if we’ve invested in ourselves along the way.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Tony Hill

In the military...

Staff Sgt. Karen Lewis, 47th Mission Support Group, fields a question from a student as she describes her job to a class at Del Rio's East Side Elementary School March 14. Sergeant Lewis participated with 40 other professional volunteers from Laughlin and the Del Rio community in the school's annual Career Awareness Day.

'Reduction,' from page 1

tary and civilians positions affected in future years has yet to be determined.

"We have strategically spread these cuts across the command's bases in such a way that we are hopeful each base will be able to absorb the cuts," General Cook said. "This doesn't mean there will be no reduction-in-force actions. RIF procedures will be used to move workers into available positions as some jobs are eliminated. This realigning of our workforce will help us better organize for the ongoing challenges we face to recruit, train, educate and retain airmen."

The reductions are a result of multiple factors, according to the AETC commander. Foremost, the Air Force and AETC must balance manpower levels with force requirements while meeting manpower ceilings set by Congress and the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

The Air Force needs to reduce manpower positions to comply with caps imposed on the active duty and civilian workforce. The Air Force is authorized and funded for about 360,000 military and 159,000 civilians. The current force will exceed these limits by more than 9,000 positions in 2004.

"In essence, the Air Force has more manpower spaces on the books than are currently authorized and funded," General Cook said. For example, the Air Force added 5,000 positions for the

Air and Space Expeditionary Force, anticipating funding and manpower relief. However, the Office of the Secretary of Defense did not approve increases.

AETC and the Air Force are concerned about the impact the reductions will have on affected employees, the general said. There are programs in place to help civilian employees, military members and their families through the reductions. Col. Dan Woodward, 47th FTW commander, will conduct town hall meetings April 2 to outline the procedures involved in this process and respond to questions.

Esther Gomez, Laughlin's Civilian Personnel Flight chief said, "We will use all the tools at our disposal to reduce the impact on our work force."

Civilian employees adversely impacted by the reduction may be eligible for registration in the DoD Priority Placement Program. The program provides help to civilian employees who want to continue their federal careers at other DoD locations. Also, family support centers at each base offer services to help people with job search skills.

"Thanks to each and every one of you for your outstanding dedicated efforts every day," General Cook said. "The real strength of AETC is its people. My top priority is to ensure our people always come first as we make the adjustments to comply with these necessary authorization reductions."

Clinic phone changes

The 47th Medical Group Family Practice Clinic phone number has been changed. The number to call for an appointment in the Family Practice or Pediatric Clinic is now 298-3578.

Uniform policy

Air Education and Training Command's policy of uniform wear on commercial air carriers for TDY travel is suspended. Civilian attire is now approved.

OSC scholarships

The Laughlin Officers' Spouses Club is offering academic and vocational scholarships to graduating seniors of an accredited high school, spouses of United States military members, dependent children and E-4s and below. An additional scholarship sponsored by FirstCommand is given to a high school senior. The deadline, to apply for the scholarships is April 12.

Contact the base education office, base library, local area high school counselors' offices, local colleges or the website www.geocities.com/parklaug/OSCatLaughlinscholarship.doc for eligibility,

Newslines

guidelines and application forms.

For more information, call Toni Kubiak, scholarship chairman, at 298-7595.

Group beneficiary services

The 47th Medical Group beneficiary services office will close every day at 2 p.m. Monday through March 28 due to an annual records inventory.

Anyone needing to pick up medical records from outpatient records or active duty personnel needing to inquire about medical consults or medical TDY orders will need to do so before 2 p.m.

For more information, call 298-6368 or 298-6371.

Medical group closure

The 47th Medical Group will be closed for training from noon to 4:30 p.m. Thursday. The training is essential to maintain the medical group's ability to respond to mission and

wartime requirements.

During the training times, radiology, the laboratory and the pharmacy will be closed. Afternoon dental and medical sick call will not be available. The nurse triage line will not be available. The Tricare Service Center will remain open. If medical treatment is needed during this time, report to the Val Verde Regional Medical Center Emergency Room. For other care, call (800) 406-2832.

For more information, call 298-6309.

Club member scholarships

Air Force Services is conducting the Seventh Annual Club Membership Scholarship Program. Current club members and their family members who have been accepted by or enrolled in an accredited college or university for entry during the fall of 2003 term as a part-time or full-time student are eligible to apply for scholarships.

Entrants must provide a 500-word or less essay on the subject of "Air Force Clubs – Help us make members first." All entries must be submitted to the 47th Services Division chief by July 15.

For more information, call 298-5374 or visit Club XL or Club Amistad.

Former CMSAF Barnes dies from cancer at 72

**Compiled from
staff reports**

WASHINGTON – Former Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Thomas N. Barnes, who served at Laughlin from 1967 to 1971, died from cancer in Sherman, Texas, on March 17. He was 72.

Barnes was the fourth CMSAF and the first black selected to the highest enlisted post in any of the military services. He served in that position from 1973 to 1977.

Barnes was born in Chester, Pa., in 1930 and entered the Air Force in 1949. He served as a hydraulics specialist from 1950 to 1952 at McChord AFB, Wash. He supported the Korean War while serving at Ashiya and Tachikawa, Japan. Shortly after arriving in Japan, he completed on-the-job training as a flight engineer, and

because of low manning, performed as both a flight engineer and hydraulics specialist.

From 1952 to 1965, the chief served in a variety of positions as a crew chief, flight engineer, and senior controller on various aircraft including the B-25 Mitchell bomber, T-11, C-45, C-47 Skytrain and B-52 Stratofortress.

In October 1966, Barnes entered F-4 Phantom field training and in December 1966 went to Southeast Asia, where he served with the 8th Tactical Fighter Wing until December 1967. From there he went to Laughlin AFB, Texas, where in 1969 he was promoted to chief master sergeant. In 1971, he was selected as the Air Training Command senior enlisted adviser, and in 1973, as the chief master sergeant of the Air Force.

During his tenure as CMSAF, the chief worked for equal opportunities for minorities, including blacks and women, and also worked to solidify the enlisted professional military education system.

After retirement, Barnes remained active in Air Force life and was a sought-after speaker at military functions. He competed in the rodeo sport of team roping and lived in Bonham, Texas, on a sprawling ranch he shared with his wife, Marie.

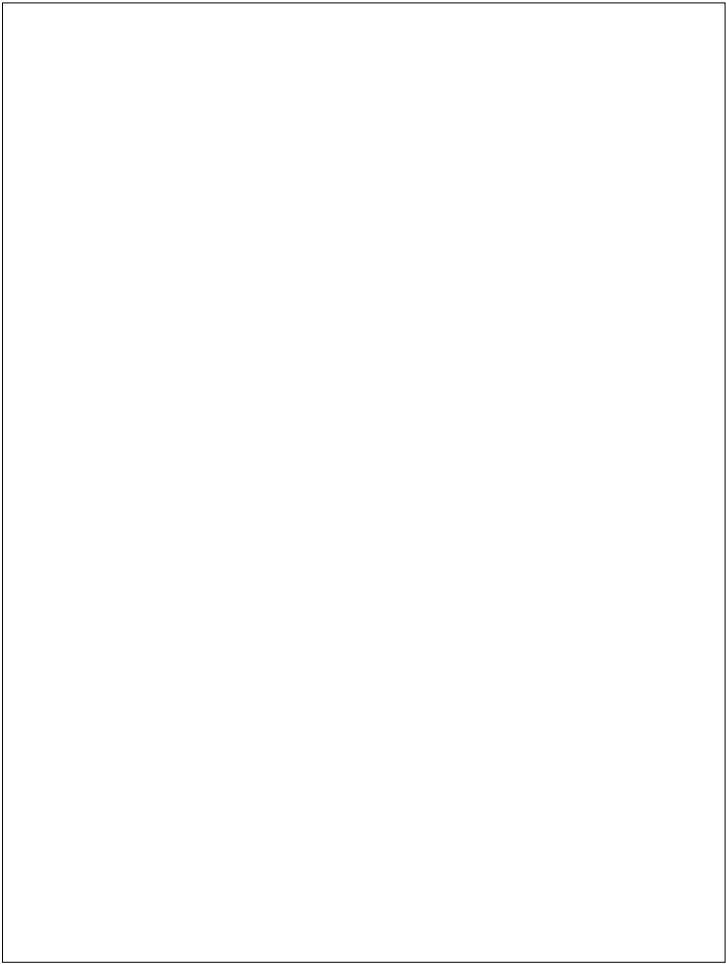
In an interview, Barnes was once asked how he would like to be remembered.

“I’d like to be remembered as a role model for people who believe they can’t get there,” he said. “It was an honor to have been chosen [as the CMSAF] on the basis of my qualifications, as opposed to my race or my gender.”



Courtesy photo

Former Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Thomas Barnes (right) talks with Chief Master Sgt. Bill Milligan, then Air Education and Training Command's command chief master sergeant, during a conference at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, in February 2001.



**Compiled from
staff reports**

WASHINGTON – A presidential executive order signed March 12 authorizes the Department of Defense to create two new military medals for service in the global war on terrorism.

The Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal will recognize servicemembers who participate in an expedition to combat terrorism on or after Sept. 11, 2001. It is limited to those who deploy as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Global War on Terrorism Service Medal will



President Bush

recognize service in military operations to combat terrorism on or after Sept. 11, 2001. It is limited to Operation Noble Eagle and to those servicemembers who provide support to Operation Enduring Freedom from outside the area of eligibility designated for the expeditionary medal.

The medals were recommended by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

Specific eligibility for the medals will be established by DOD awards policy officials. The combatant commander has the authority to award the medals to units and people

deployed within his theater for approved operations. Each service department will prescribe the appropriate regulations for processing and wearing the medals.

Members of the U.S. armed forces and Coast Guard are eligible for the medals, including Reserve and National Guard members activated to support approved operations. Civilians, foreign nationals and foreign military are not eligible.

It will take up to 12 months to produce and stock the medals in supply systems, officials said.

Future authorizations for these medals can be approved by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff if the war on terrorism expands.

AF implements stop-loss

Compiled from staff reports

WASHINGTON – The assistant secretary of the Air Force for manpower and reserve affairs has authorized the use of Stop-Loss to retain specific skills needed to meet national security objectives. Effective May 2, 43 officer and 56 enlisted specialties will be affected by stop-loss.

There are 57 Laughlin members projected to be affected, said Capt. Joe Colunga, 47th Mission Support Squadron military personnel flight commander. They all have dates of separation or retirement between May 2 and April, 2004.

“We do not take this action lightly,” said Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche. “Stop-loss is designed to preserve critical skills essential to supporting the global war on terrorism, while ensuring we’re prepared to meet other contin-

gencies.”

“We’ve implemented stop-loss to ensure we have the necessary skilled personnel to conduct operations,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper. “We’ll use it only as long as necessary to accomplish our mission.”

Stop-loss is being implemented across the active duty, Air Force Ready Reserve and Air National Guard for the affected career fields in the ranks of airman through colonel, according to Maj. Teresa L. Forest, chief of Air Force retirements and separation policy at the Pentagon.

Both the secretary and chief of staff are acutely aware that the Air Force is an all-volunteer force and that this action, while essential to meeting the service’s worldwide obligations, is inconsistent with the fundamental principles of voluntary service.

“We take stop-loss seriously and are working hard

to ensure the lives of our airmen, their families and their civilian employers are not disrupted any longer than is necessary to meet our national commitments,” Jumper said.

Therefore, a waiver process will be implemented for those people with unique circumstances.

“We are doing our best to minimize this disruption,” Roche said. “And we will look at unique circumstances on a case-by-case basis and do all we can to offer appropriate relief.”

“We understand the individual sacrifices that our airmen and their families will be making,” Jumper said. “We appreciate their unwavering support and dedication to our nation.”

For more information about stop-loss, people may contact their local military personnel flight or the Air Force Personnel Center’s Stop-Loss Control Center at (210) 565-2374 or DSN 665-2374.



Photo by Master Sgt. Terry Blevins

Getting adusted...

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM – Airman 1st Class Kenneth Maldonado adjusts parts of in external fuel tank being built to support Operation Enduring Freedom. Maldonado is assigned to the 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron at a forward deployed location.

ONLINE
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U.S. AIR FORCE

Access breaking news at United States Air Force Online News, the official newspaper of the United States Air Force. A simple click to www.af.mil/news/ keeps you informed about events.

Leaders discuss changes at Air Force Academy

By Senior Master Sgt. Rick Burnham
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – A special report by the Air Force general counsel on the recent rise in sexual assault allegations at the U.S. Air Force Academy is scheduled for release at the end of March.

But, the service’s top leaders said recently that they will not wait that long to initiate needed changes.

Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper recently spoke with reporters from the Washington Post. During the interview, the leaders said there are immediate changes that will diminish the climate they say is in part responsible for the rash of accusations.

Among the changes, female cadets will be grouped in a specific area while still keeping squadron integrity, and enhanced counseling services will be offered for assault victims who come forward with complaints.

Investigators are looking into as

many as 56 reports of possible sexual assault in the past 10 years, the secretary said, including allegations of rape.

If precautionary measures fail, the secretary said, it is imperative that assault victims have the appropriate resources to seek justice, an avenue that both men fear has not always been in place.

“We will have counselors in place to track the progress of cases and provide advice for the victims,” he said. “There will also be changes

in how complaints are investigated to guard against attempts at undermining the credibility of victims.”

Those attempts include bringing up school infractions such as drinking or socializing with upperclassmen, General Jumper said. He

added that confidentiality will be an important part of any new set of protocols.

Equally important, General Jumper said, is establishing a feeling among cadets that they can approach the leadership system at any point and know that their welfare is taken into account.

“We want them to know that they will be put into a process that is

going to be helpful to their case,” he said. “That is one of our first orders of business, and there are changes in the works that will ensure these things take place.”

Incoming cadets – both male and female – can expect greater educational emphasis on preventing sexual assault, the general added.

“Upon entering the academy, all cadets will be put through a directed course of indoctrination that talks about this problem,” General Jumper said.

An important element in virtually every Air Force organization – the knowledge and experience of senior enlisted leaders – will be used more effectively at the academy.

“Our enlisted people at the acad-

emy obviously do not have chain of command authority,” Dr. Roche said. “But General Jumper and our Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Gerald Murray, were able to have some very productive meetings with our enlisted people there and brought a lot of good ideas home about the situation.”

All of the changes at the academy will be designed to create a climate that produces the Air Force leaders of the future, the general said.

“We need to make absolutely sure that everyone at the academy thinks of each other as brothers and sisters,” he said, “and that they can focus on the important job of preparing themselves to lead our Air Force when they are called on to do so.”

Officials establish sexual assault hotline

WASHINGTON – Air Force officials have established a phone line for U.S. Air Force Academy cadets to report sexual assault to the inspector general.

Current and former cadets can contact the IG by calling (703) 588-1541 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST.

The IG began an investigation March 10 of individual sexual assault cases of cadets and former cadets, and interviews will be for official Air Force use only. All

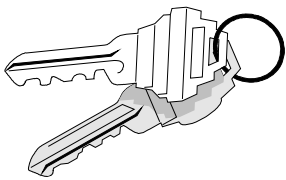
information will be protected to the maximum extent possible under the Privacy Act.

Individuals who previously reported an assault through the Office of Special Investigations, the Air Force Academy chain of command or other channels, but feel their case was not handled properly should also report their case to the IG for further investigation, said officials.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

Do the world a favor — recycle

Think safety:
Keep all
valuables secure!



‘Pharmacy,’ from page 1

solution, Cepachol lozenges, Benadryl Elixir, Tylenol 325 mg. tablets and Debrox eardrops. Patients will have to purchase these items at the commissary, base exchange or local retail stores.

“When over-the-counter medications are prescribed, they are treated like any other drug. They have to be labeled, identified, logged in and inventoried. The manpower time is huge,” said Colonel Hardin. “This is something we would still like to do. I understand the cost of some of these medicines can put a strain on our younger families but, with the personnel situation, we just can’t maintain it.”

The pharmacy will also not be

able to provide transfer-prescription services under the new plan. Any patient with an existing prescription from another DoD facility will have to see a Laughlin provider to receive the prescription. The pharmacy will provide a few days worth of the critical medications until a Laughlin provider can be seen.

“It is very time consuming,” said Capt. Jolene Norris, 47th Medical Support Squadron pharmacist.

Captain Norris said they have to check the validity of every prescription they fill. That requires calling the facility where it was prescribed. “It isn’t that bad when we are calling to verify a prescription from somewhere in the United States, but we get prescriptions from all over the world,” said Captain Norris. “This

requires a lot of extra time. You have to come in at all hours of the night to call these places when they are open.”

The last measure in the new plan deals with nonformulary medications. A nonformulary medication is one not typically prescribed by a provider or stocked by a pharmacy. If a Laughlin member is prescribed a nonformulary medicine, he will have to get it filled at a downtown pharmacy through the Tricare network pharmacy system or the National Mail Order Pharmacy. Active duty members do not have to pay anything to use these services but dependents and retirees will be charged a \$9 copay for brand name drugs and a \$3 copay for generic drugs.

“For people going to be on a cer-

tain drug for a long time, such as a heart medicine or diabetes, the mail order pharmacy is the best thing in the world,” said Colonel Hardin. “People can get a three-month supply for the copay you usually pay for a one-month supply. It is a fabulous benefit people don’t take advantage of.”

Colonel Hardin said he does not know if Laughlin will ever be able to provide these services again.

“You never know about these things,” said Colonel Hardin. “With manning levels the way they are around the entire Air Force and people getting deployed, it is hard to say if Laughlin will be able to provide these services again.”

For more information on the pharmacy changes, call 298-6453.

Defense Department
announces 2005 BRAC

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – The Department of Defense has received congressional authorization for a base realignment and closure round in 2005.

BRAC, the first since 1995, was announced in a Feb. 13 message from the office of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

Called BRAC 2005, the program is a means to achieve several goals: eliminate excess infrastructure; reshape the military; pursue jointness; optimize military readiness; and realize significant savings in support of transforming the Department of Defense, according to the message.

At a minimum, the next BRAC round must eliminate excess physical capacity. In doing so, the program helps the Defense Department reduce waste, save money and free up resources to recruit quality people, modernize equipment and infrastructure, and develop the capa-

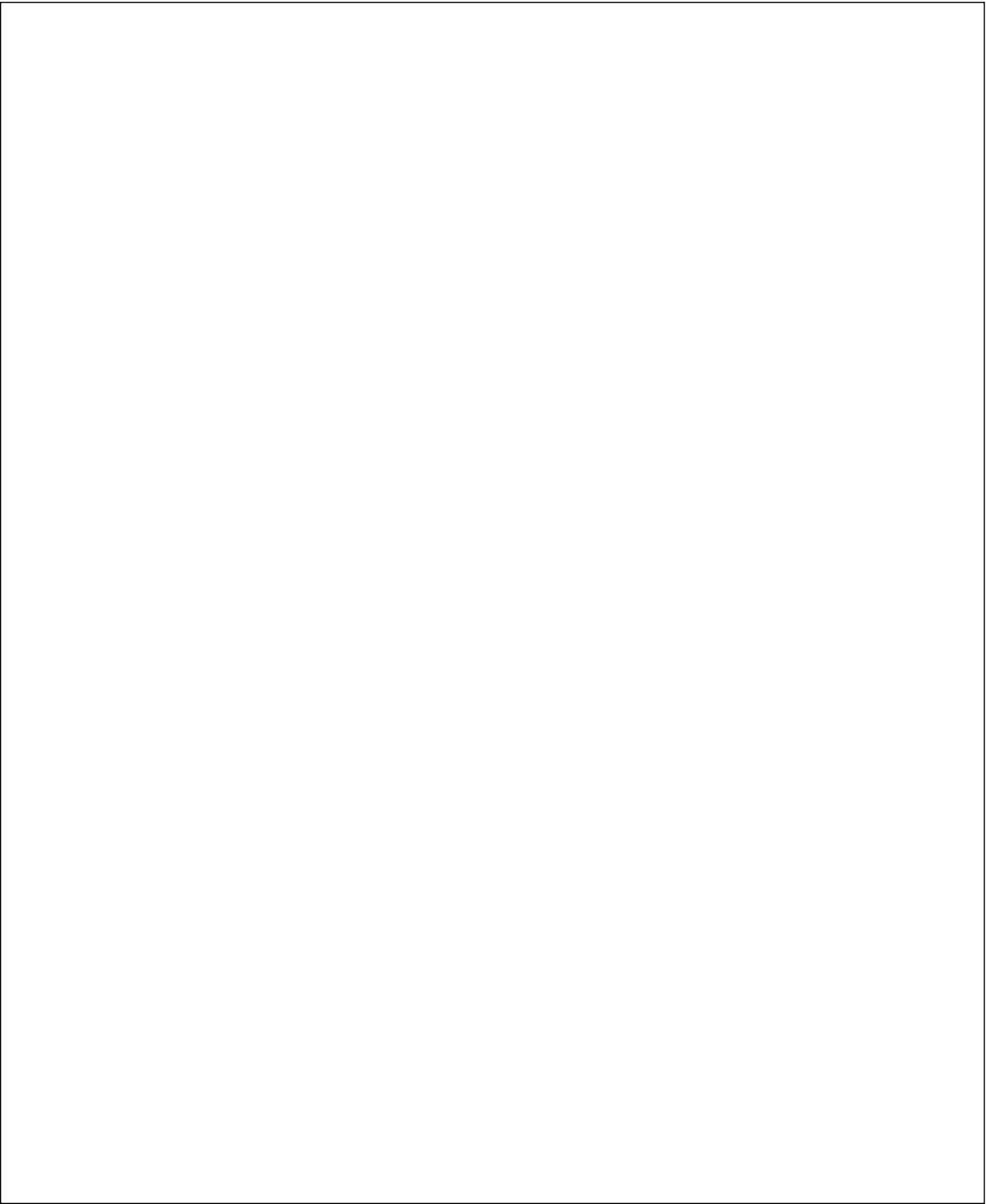
bilities needed to meet 21st century threats, according to the message.

Through 2001, previous BRAC actions saved DoD \$16.7 billion, the message stated. Beyond 2001, officials estimate annual savings of about \$6.6 billion.

The Secretary of Defense has directed the BRAC 2005 process begin immediately, the message stated. After gathering information and completing a comprehensive analysis, the secretary will submit recommendations for realigning or closing bases by May 16, 2005, to the independent BRAC Commission.

The commission forwards its report on the recommendations to the president by Sept. 8, 2005. The president will have until Sept. 23, 2005, to accept or reject the recommendations in their entirety. If accepted, congress will have 45 legislative days to act on the recommendations.

(Courtesy of Air Education
Training Command
News Service)



E-8 promotion rates up; critical skills even higher

WASHINGTON – The 1,612 master sergeants picked for promotion this year were selected using the chronic critical skills program for the first time. The selectees were named Wednesday.

Laughlin had one master sergeant selected of 25 eligibles, Master Sgt. Daniel Kjolhede, Maintenance Division test, measurement and diagnostic equipment branch chief.

The program applies higher selection rates to certain career fields. This year is the first it is being applied to the E-8 and E-9 promotion cycles.

Under the program, officials identified 25 career fields to be classified as “critical” skills for the E-8

promotion cycle. The overall selection rate for this cycle, 10.18 percent, is the highest since 1987. The move pushed average selection percentages, depending on the multiplier applied, up to 30.88 percent.

“We’re now including E-8s and E-9s because of critical senior non-commissioned officer shortages in these (Air Force specialties) that are seriously impacting mission readiness,” said Chief Master Sgt. Carol Dockery, chief of enlisted promotions and evaluation at the Pentagon.

The effort to expand the chronic critical skills program to the two highest enlisted ranks began during the central evaluation board and final approval came only days ago, said

officials.

To get there, those competing for promotion in designated Air Force specialty codes are assigned a higher selection rate, 1.2 times the Air Force average, Dockery said.

For example, an AFSC with a 15 percent selection rate would receive an 18 percent promotion rate when placed on the critical skills list.

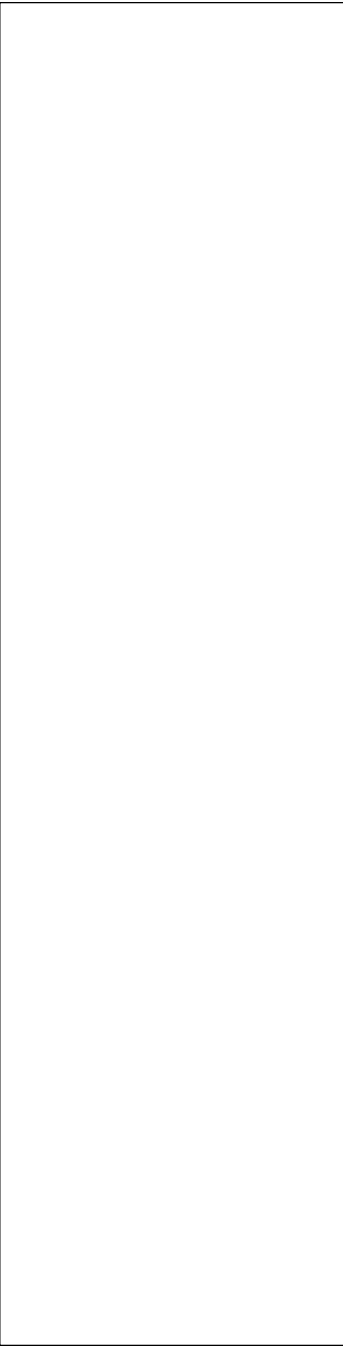
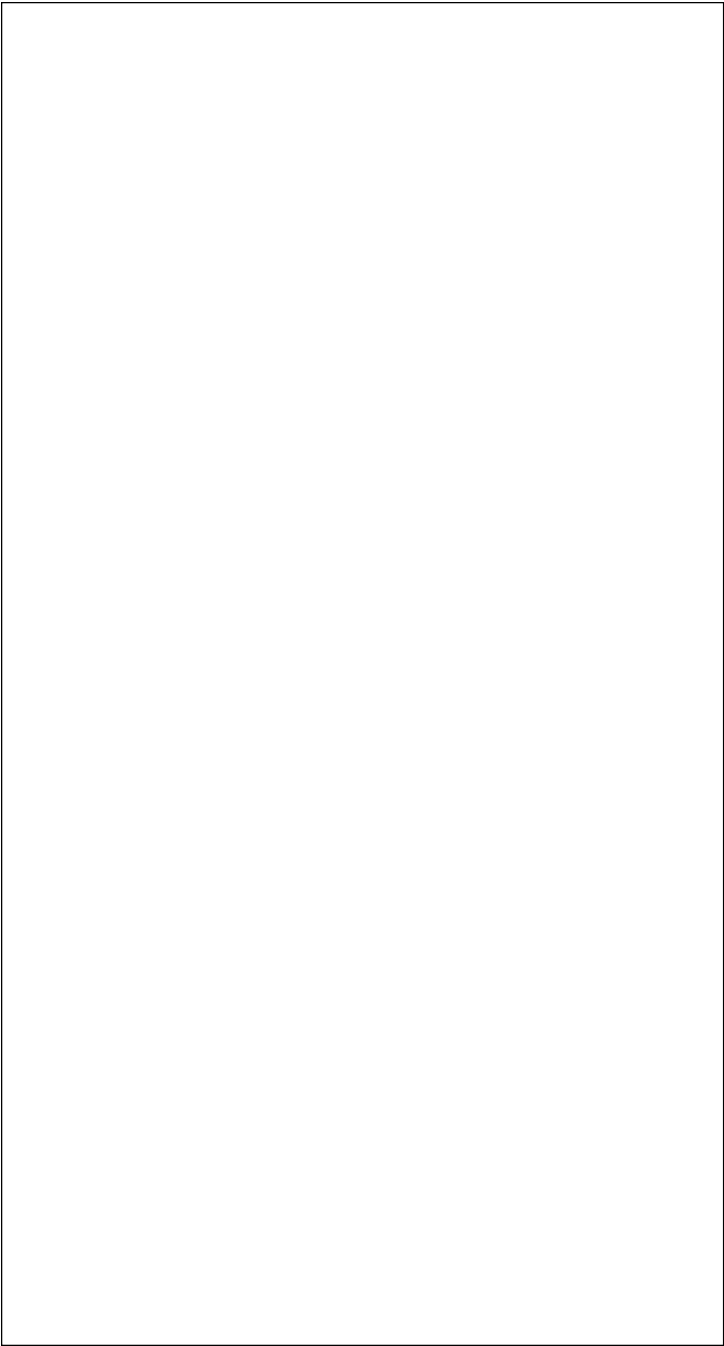
“Now, more than ever, it’s absolutely essential that we balance our enlisted force structure to meet our expeditionary force requirements,” said Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray. “We must continue to use the (chronic critical skills) program and all other available tools, such as selective re-

enlistment bonuses, incentive pays and retraining, if we are to achieve balance in our force.”

Senior NCOs in Air Force specialties manned at or below 70 percent with less than 25 people eligible for promotion received a multiplier of 3.0; those manned at or below 70 percent with more than 25 people eligible for promotion received a multiplier of 1.4; and those manned above 70 percent but less than 90 percent received a multiplier of 1.2.

Senior NCO Academy selections will be posted on the Air Force Personnel Center Web site by Saturday at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/eprom>.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)



IRS says partial tax break OK for service member home sales

WASHINGTON – The Internal Revenue Service recently clarified a home sales rule affecting service members seeking a capital gains tax exemption worth up to nearly \$500,000 for a couple.

The IRS said service members can claim partial exemptions if military duty interfered with their ability to comply with the exemption’s two-year residency rule.

The income tax rule in question said home sellers could claim the full exemption only by owning and living in the house for at least two years out of the previous five. Sellers who couldn’t meet that rule could still qualify for a partial exemption if, among other things, they sold because of a change in the place of employment of 50 miles or more.

The rule made no ex-

plicit mention of exceptions or relief for service members moving on official military orders. The IRS clarification, in essence, gives service members the same status as any other early seller eligible for a partial exemption.

The amount of the partial exemption is based on how many days of the 730 required were met before the sale. For example, one year of residence would merit 50 percent of the tax exemption, which would mean an exemption of up to \$125,000 for an individual and \$250,000 for a couple.

Tax reporting and treatment of full and partial exemptions are discussed in IRS Publication 523, “Selling Your Home.” It is accessible and downloadable online at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p523.pdf.

(Courtesy of DefenseLink News)

National Women’s History Month: wo



Capt. Lisa Nemeth, 84th Flying Training Squadron T-37 instructor pilot, watches other aircraft take off before departing

Laughlin Air Force Base on a training sortie with student pilot, 2nd Lt. Carl Beckey.

Story and photos by
Airman 1st Class
Yvonne Conde
Staff writer

For many years, American women struggled to possess the same rights men have. With ambition, determination and hard work, American women have achieved the vision of gaining more rights today than ever before.

In commemoration of those who took part in the struggle to expand opportunities for all American women, March has been declared Women’s History Month.

“This month, as we celebrate remarkable women in our nation’s past, I encourage all citizens to recognize the countless American women whose efforts continue to enhance the economic, social and cultural life of our great nation,” said President George W. Bush in the recent Women’s History Month proclamation.

According to President Bush’s proclamation speech, women currently account for 47 percent of all employed persons and continue to



Airman 1st Class Andrea Reyes, 47th Communications Squadron messaging technician, ensures wires are properly placed.



Senior Airman Clorice Jacobs, 47th Aeromedical Dental Squadron dental assistant, performs a routine cleaning on a patient.

men of Laughlin represent at work

enter the workforce in record numbers. The number of women college graduates in the United States between 1992 and 2002 has increased from 15.9 to 23.6 million.

As part of the dedication, Laughlin will have a Federal Women's Program Luncheon March 28 at Club XL at 11:30 a.m. The guest speaker will be Del Rio Mayor Dora Alcalá, the first woman elected Mayor in the history of Del Rio.

Mayor Alcalá began her career straight out of high school working at Laughlin while continuing her education and later served as a motivational speaker. She served 37 years with the U.S. Air Force in the areas of human resource management, financial management, education and equal employment opportunity. She retired as a civilian equal employment opportunity training director at the Defense Equal Employment Opportunity Management Institute at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., prior to becoming the mayor.

To attend the luncheon, R.S.V.P. with your squadron representative no later than Monday.



Airman 1st Class Heather Martin, 47th Operations Support Squadron air traffic controller, practices on a new simulator.



Tiffany Molina, Friendship Pool manager, sits watch as lifeguard.



Staff Sgt. Jennifer Nalls, 47th Mission Support Group contracting specialist and honor guard member, practices before retreat.



Airman 1st Class Shannon Stoeger, 47th Security Forces Squadron entry controller, performs a random car inspection at Laughlin's west gate.



2nd. Lt. Meaghan White, 47th Civil Engineering Squadron project manager, helps shovel dirt away from underground pipes.

Deployed air traffic team keeps sky safe

**By Senior Airman
Amanda Mills**
*321st Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs*

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM – Most people can see the daily air traffic at any air base, but they do not see the driving forces that keep the aircraft from having midair collisions.

At one forward-deployed location, that behind-the-scenes action is a dual effort by the 321st Operations Group’s radar approach control and air traffic control

sections.

The radar approach control, or RAPCON, and air traffic control teams work together to bring the aircraft in and get them out safely, while ensuring the sky and runways are clear.

“The RAPCON controls a 60-mile radius of airspace over and around the base, closely monitoring a plane’s location and runway intent,” said Staff Sgt. Raymond Twofeathers, chief RAPCON controller. “At 20 miles out, we update the tower on the craft’s location. Then at five

miles out as the craft is preparing to land, we turn it over to the tower.”

The air traffic control team in the tower takes over at that point.

“The tower is in charge of vehicle movement on the airfield and clearing each plane to land,” said Staff Sgt. William Bach, a tower controller. “We also work with [the base operations section] to confirm pilots’ flight plans and with the weather shop to transmit weather information to them.”

Although most of the pi-

lots that airmen encounter are American, there are times where the controllers assist with host-nation pilots, which can sometimes be a challenge.

“My job is ensuring pilots take off and land safely,” said Senior Airman Sean Bell, a tower controller. “But when I can’t completely understand them, and they can’t understand me, it complicates things. I have to be certain that I can give clear instructions and that they understand those instructions.”

With the challenges of

every profession, however, there are also benefits.

Through it all, ATC and RAPCON teams maintain a strong relationship.

“We all have camaraderie; we’re all working toward the same mission,” Sergeant Twofeathers said. “[The tower] clears the planes to land, and I get them out and bring them in.

“The RAPCON and ATC are two pieces of the same puzzle; one simply cannot function and ‘finish the picture’ without the other,” he added.



Women highlight flight progress

By Capt. Kimberly Tebrugge
Air Force Print News

KILL DEVIL HILLS, N.C. – In 1944, when the B-29 hit the flightline, Army Air Corps pilots were hesitant to fly the new bomber. It was bigger and more complicated than its predecessor, the B-17, and had a reputation for engine fires.

Then Lt. Col. Paul W. Tibbets, who was in charge of training the Army Air Forces pilots, asked two young Women Air Service Pilots to demonstrate the performance abilities of the B-29 to the men. This seemed to solve Tibbets' dilemma. The men did not complain about flying the plane anymore.

"We all had two things in common," said former WASP Ethel Finley, "patriotism, and love of flying."

Ethel and four other WASPs, joined by active-

duty Air Force women who serve in aviation-related career fields, entertained hundreds of elementary and middle school girls March 13 to 15 with their "old time" experiences and stories at the National Park Service's Women in Aviation event at the Wright Brothers' National Memorial.

Just listening to the groups share their experiences highlighted a drastic difference in the integration of women military aviators. During World War II, women servicemembers were an anomaly. Today, women comprise 19 percent of the force and serve in 99 percent of the career fields.

With the Kill Devil Hills and Orville and Wilbur Wright's replicated camp in the background as Pryor spoke, the event was a simple tribute to a tremendous century of progress in powered flight.

The *XLer*

Hometown:

Stevensville, Mont.

Family: Mother, father, brother and two sisters

Time at Laughlin:

Five months

Time in service: Nine months

Greatest accomplishments: Joining the Air Force

Hobbies: Swimming, reading and dancing

Favorite music: The Doors

Favorite movie: Shawshank Redemption

If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why? Jim Morrison, to find out the real story behind the conspiracy around his mysterious death.

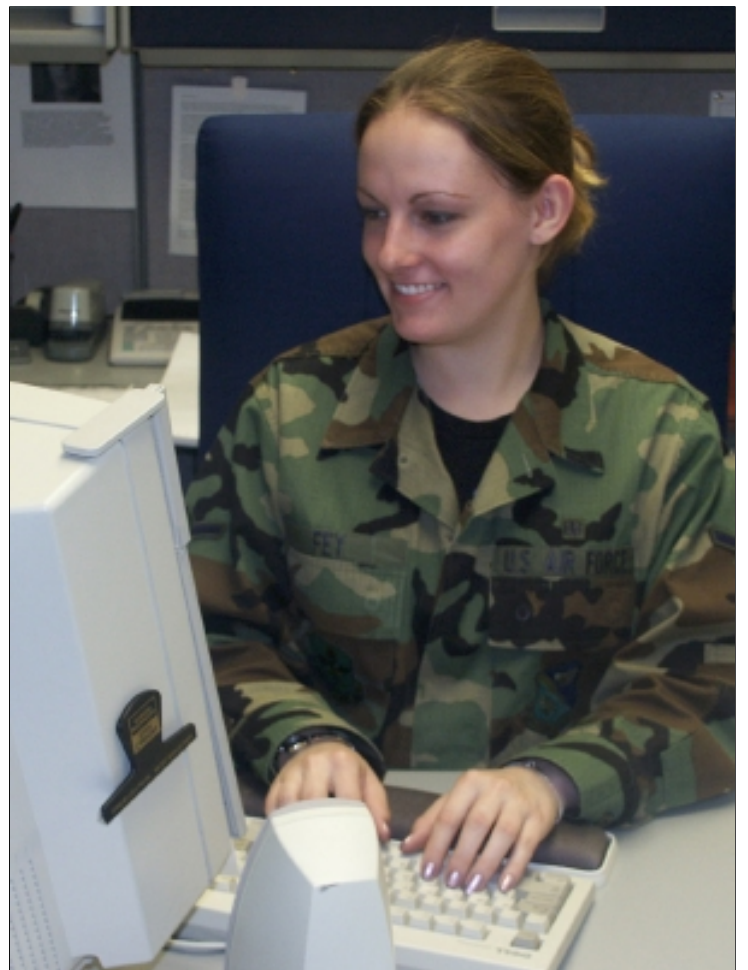
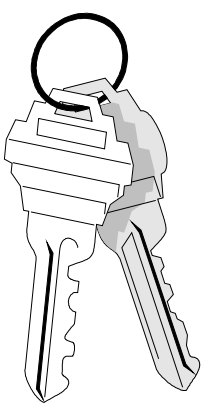


Photo by Airman 1st Class Timothy Stein

Airman Sheila Fey
47th Medical Support Squadron



Remember
home
security:
Keep your
doors locked



Photo by Airman 1st Class Yvonne Conde

Picture perfect ...

Emily Franco and Frank Cantu are the winners of the 2003 "Be my Valentine" coloring contest. Emily, daughter of retired Tech. Sgt. Luis and Doris Franco, won first place in the 6- through 10-year-old category. Frank, son of Staff Sgt. Francisco and Desi Cantu, won first place in the 3- through 5-year-old category. The winners receive a free pizza from Pepperoni's on base.

Post office delivers deployed airmen piece of home

By Staff Sgt. Karen Tomasik
386th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA – In a three-word phrase, Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks summarized what could make or break a good day for airmen deployed to the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing – “You’ve got mail.”

386th Expeditionary Communications Squadron ensures everyone assigned to the wing and its tenant units are able to send and receive mail while deployed and supporting various missions including Operation Southern Watch.

To handle the increased load of mail for thousands of new soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, the post

office recently moved into a larger building and receives help from the unit mail clerks to offload and sort the mail.

“The volume of mail processed each week has increased more than 800 percent since December,” said Capt. Jackie Meyer, 386th ECS commander. “We are now processing nearly 33,000 pounds of mail each week. This is equivalent to the amount of mail processed by an overseas flying wing, but we are doing it with one-fifth the manpower.”

Although the workload has increased nearly tenfold since they have arrived, the postal clerks have taken it in stride and maintain a positive outlook on the work they

do. “It’s hard work, but we’ve got a great team,” said Airman 1st Class Taylor Hodgson, one of the postal clerks. “We work side by side with our sister services everyday, and everyone has a lot of fun breaking down the mail. The benefits definitely outweigh the drawbacks.”

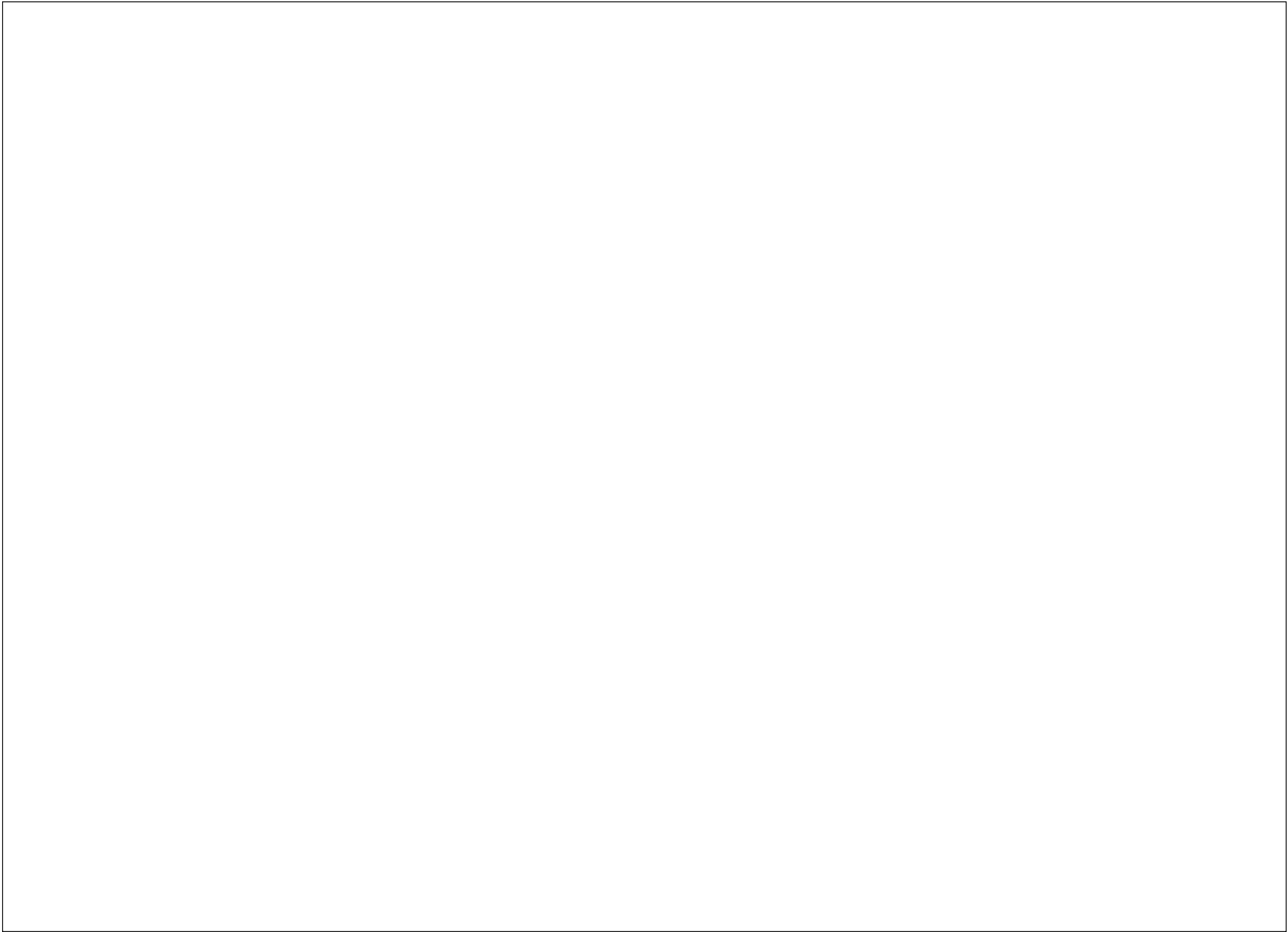
One of the benefits the post office offers deployed members is the free letter service. Servicemembers can write ‘free’ in the space where a stamp would go, and the post office mails it without charging for a stamp.

“We can send any piece of correspondence that weighs 13 ounces or less, free of charge,” said Tech. Sgt.

Keith Weiss, postmaster of the wing post office. “Correspondence includes letters and postcards, as well as personal audio tapes, video tapes or digital correspondence on a CD-Rom or floppy disk.

The post office provides an important service to deployed members, and the significance of that role is seen in the support the post office receives from the base.

“I have never seen people pull together like they have here,” said Meyer. “We get volunteers from Air Force, Army, Marine and Navy units every day to help load and unload mail. It’s a great pleasure to see this kind of cooperation during stressful times like this.”



Thinking about getting out? Think again.
Call the career assistance adviser at 298-5456 for guidance.

Chapel Schedule

Catholic

- Friday ● 6 p.m., Stations of the Cross
- Saturday ● 5 p.m., Mass
- Sunday ● 9:30 a.m., Mass
- Thursday ● 6 p.m., Choir; 7:30 p.m., R.C.I.A.
- Reconciliation ● By appointment
- Religious Education ● 11 a.m. Sunday

Jewish, Muslim and other

- Call 298-5111

Nondenominational

- Sunday ● 6:30 p.m. Officer Christian Fellowship, call 298-2238
- Friday ● 7 p.m., Unity in Community Fellowship (activities for children)
- Monthly ● Women’s fellowship (call 298-1351 for details)

Protestant

- Sunday ● 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Sunday school
- 11 a.m., General worship (blend of contemporary and traditional worship, nursery provided)
- Wednesday ● 10 a.m., Women’s Bible study
- 7 p.m., Choir at chapel

For more information on chapel events and services, call 298-5111.

CES defeats 87th, advances to championship

By 2nd Lt. Lindsay Logsdon
Public Affairs

The 47th Civil Engineering Squadron squeaked out a win against the 87th Flying Training Squadron in their second round basketball intramural playoff game Wednesday at the Fitness Center.

Both teams knew what was on the line. The winner of the game would advance to the championship game, the loser would have to win another game in the loser's bracket in order to advance to the championship.

The 87th scored first and went on a 7-2 run. The two teams then battled back and forth, staying within two points throughout most of the half.

Corey Christoffer was the 87th's leading scorer in the half with 17 points. He hit five for five from

downtown. CES was also hitting its shots however, easily keeping pace.

With seconds left in the half CES's high scorer, Anthony Morin, spotted up in three-point land and got his shot off with the foul. What turned out to be a four-point play put CES up 30-25 at the end of the half.

CES maintained a six- to eight-point lead throughout most of the second half. With five minutes left they led, 48-42. Glenn Gonzales, the 87th's point guard, nailed a three, bringing the score to within three. In the next few minutes, the 87th went on a 10-4 run giving them a two-point lead.

The 87th comeback can mainly be attributed to Gonzales' 20 second-half points.

With forty-one seconds left on the clock, Christoffer had a chance

to give the Bulls a four-point lead but missed both free throws.

Both teams went into full-court press. With 28 seconds left, Morin hit a 10-foot jumper, tying the score at 52. On the next possession, the 87th came down and attempted a jumper. CES's Ray Dunklin grabbed the rebound and called a timeout with 5.6 seconds left. CES couldn't convert, however; sending the game into overtime.

The five-minute overtime started with CES receiving the tip and quickly cashing in on an easy layup. With a little over a minute left and the score, 60-54, things weren't looking good for the 87th.

The 87th resorted to fouling to stop the clock and regain possession. It soon paid off. Gonzales, Shawn McManus and Christoffer all hit cru-

cial threes. In the last four seconds Christoffer again rained from downtown bringing the 87th within one. However, when he went to the line for a four-point play, he failed to tie it up.

After fouling CES on the rebound, 87th had one final chance but missed at the buzzer.

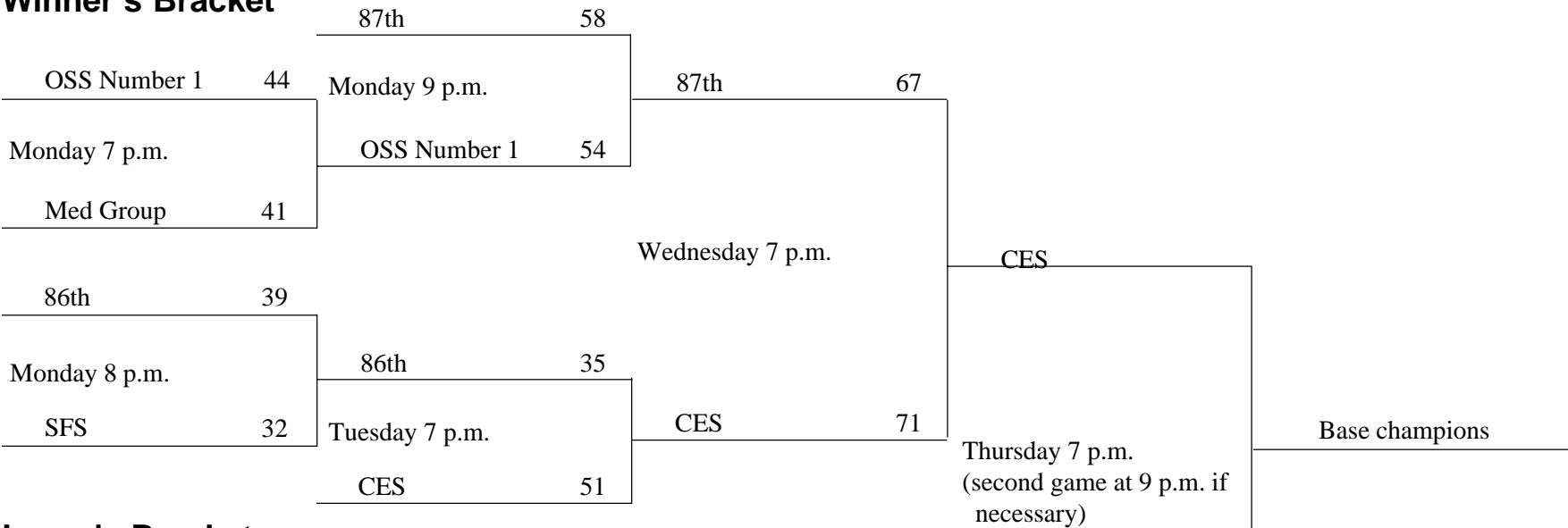
The 87th will not wait long for revenge, however. In the final game Wednesday night, they played Operations Support Squadron No. 1 for the right to play CES Thursday in the championship game.

OSS put up a good fight but couldn't stop the determined 87th, which won 42-37.

CES and the 87th were scheduled to play for the championship Thursday night.

2003 Intramural Basketball Playoff Bracket

Winner's Bracket



Loser's Bracket

